

REMARKS

Claims 22-30 and 32-39 remain pending in this application, with only Claim 39 being rejected. Claims 22-30 and 32-38 have been allowed.

Applicants have added new Claim 40, which tracks most of the language of Claim 39 but instead of requiring the flange connection to be within a combustion engine, requires the curable silicone composition to have a threshold level of adhesion.

Claim 39 has now been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,492,217 (Scheidler).

While Applicants traverse the reasoning supporting this rejection, for the sake of advancing prosecution on the merits, Applicants have amended the rejected claim to require the flange connection to be within a combustion engine.

Scheidler is directed to and claims a heating panel assembly, such as for a heater and/or cooker panel to be adhesively connected to a surrounding frame and/or mounting.

Scheidler fails to disclose either a flange connection within a combustion engine or a flange connection sealed from the cured product of a curable silicone composition, which demonstrates adhesion of at least 0.5 N/mm².

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Amendment dated June 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 10, 2004

Accordingly, in view of these amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed, and they should no longer be maintained. Applicants further submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request such an indication in the next written communication.

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Respectfully submitted,



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